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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7136  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY 7237  
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK PRIORITY 0190  
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY 0480  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 1711  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 0142  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0115  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 000309

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/24/2016  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [CVIS](#) [EUN](#) [BO](#) [EZ](#)  
SUBJECT: CZECHS STRONGLY SUPPORT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR  
LUKASHENKO

REF: A. PRAGUE 00298

[1](#)B. STATE 46976

Classified By: Acting DCM Michael Dodman for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) In a meeting on March 23, MFA Eastern Europe Director Tomas Szunyog told Poloff the Czechs support travel restrictions for top Belarusian government officials, ref A. On MQch 24, Poloff called Szunyog to confirm the Czechs support travel restrictions for Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko himself. Szunyog confirmed that they do, and added FM Cyril Svoboda proposed this sanction in a speech given March 23.

[1](#)2. (C) Szunyog said the Czechs have proposed travel restrictions for Lukashenko within the EU context. Szunyog believes the matter will be debated during the April GAERC, and that the EU will base its decision in large part on recommendations made by EU Ambassadors in Minsk. Czech Charge d'Affaires Vladimir Ruml has been instructed to urge his counterparts in Minsk to support travel restrictions for Lukashenko and other regime officials.

[1](#)3. (C) Szunyog was uncertain whether EU rules permit the Czechs to impose bilateral travel restriction if the EU failed to do so. Recalling that the GOCR had banned Lukashenko from attending the 2002 NATO Summit, he expected that it would likewise consider imposing a bilateral travel ban, if possible.  
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